

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6229
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 6363

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, ET, SO, KE
SUBJ: KENYAN SEES WAR TURNAROUND IN ETHIOPIA'S FAVOR

SUMMARY: KENYAN MILITARY ATTACHE COL. MUSONYE, WHO BECAUSE
OF HIS SOMEWHAT GREATER ACCESS TO ETHIOPIAN MILITARY IS
AMONG MORE RELIABLE SOURCES WITHIN LOCAL ATTACHE CORPS, BE-
LIEVES THAT SOMALI INVASION HAS RUN OUT OF STEAM AND THAT
SITUATION IN OGADEN HAS STABILIZED IN ETHIOPIA'S FAVOR. UN-
USUALLY HEAVY AUTUMN RAINS HAVE HAMPERED BOTH ARMIES. END
SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO MUSONYE IN CONVERSATION WITH POLCOUNS,
MORALE PROBLEMS THAT HAD CONTRIBUTED TO FALL OF JIJIGA AND
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AND LED TO FACTIONAL DISPUTES BETWEEN CAREER ARMY,
MILITIA, AND POLITICAL CADRE IN ETHIOPIAN FORCES
STILL EXIST. HOWEVER, IT NOW LOOKS AS IF BASIC DIS-
CIPLINE HAS BEEN RESTORED. DIRG HAS REPORTEDLY OR-
DERED SOME EXEMPLARY EXECUTIONS OF BOTH OFFICERS AND
MEN, BUT HAD ALSO MADE SOME CONCESSIONS TO OLD LINE
OFFICERS DESIGNED TO RESTORE CHAIN OF COMMAND AUTHORITY.

2. MUSONYE SAID THAT MANY OF RETIRED VETERANS CALLED BACK TO SERVICE IN SEPT WERE RUSHED TO FRONT LINES. THERE THEY AND MILITIA WERE CALLED ON TO HOLD DEFENSIVE LINE WHILE REGULAR UNITS WERE TRAINED TO OPERATE NEWLY-ARRIVED SOVIET WEAPONRY. THIS HOLDING PATTERN WAS NOW NEARLY OVER, AND ETHIOPIANS ARE GEARING UP TO TAKE OFFENSIVE AND TO FIGHT DECISIVE CAMPAIGN OF WAR AS SOON AS CESSATION OF RECENT HEAVY RAINS PERMITTED UNIMPEDED MOVEMENT OF MECHANIZED EQUIPMENT. IN MUSONYE'S MIND, OUTCOME THIS CAMPAIGN WAS NOT IN DOUBT, GIVEN CLEAR ETHIOPIAN AIR SUPERIORITY, NEW WEAPONRY, HIGHER TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES OF ITS ARMED FORCES, AND STRONG ETHIOPIAN DESIRE FOR REVENGE. SOMALIS WERE NOW DUG IN IN FORCE AROUND JIJIGA, BUT MUSONYE EXPECTED CAMPAIGN TO MOVE QUICKLY, ONCE IT IS LAUNCHED. HE SAW NO LIKELIHOOD THAT ETHIOPIANS WOULD AGREE TO CEASEFIRE SHORT OF REGAINING ALL OF THEIR TERRITORY AND SUGGESTED THAT KENYAN GOVT WOULD ALSO BE DISPLEASED WITH SUCH A CEASEFIRE.

3. DESPITE TEMPTATION TO DO SO, MUSONYE DOUBTED THAT ETHIOPIAN STRATEGY WOULD BE TO OCCUPY NORTHERN PORTION OF SOMALIA AND TRADE IT BACK AGAINST THE REST OF OGADEN, RATHER THAN LABORIOUSLY TO OUST SOMALIS PROGRESSIVELY FROM EACH OGADEN VILLAGE. WHILE HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOMALIS WERE NOW DUG IN IN FORCE AROUND JIJIGA, BUT MUSONYE EXPECTED CAMPAIGN TO MOVE QUICKLY, ONCE IT IS LAUNCHED. HE SAW NO LIKELIHOOD THAT ETHIOPIANS WOULD AGREE TO CEASEFIRE SHORT OF REGAINING ALL OF THEIR TERRITORY AND SUGGESTED THAT KENYAN GOVT WOULD ALSO BE DISPLEASED WITH SUCH A CEASEFIRE.

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LEDGED THAT SOME TACTICAL BORDER INCURSIONS AND AIR RAIDS MIGHT BE NECESSARY, HE ALSO FELT THAT SOVIETS, WHO HAVE BEEN CLAIMING TO EPMG THAT SOMALIS VIOLATED TERMS UNDER WHICH SOVIETS HAD PROVIDED THEM DEFENSIVE WEAPONS, WOULD EXERCISE RESTRAINING HAND.

4. IN SOUTH, MUSONYE SAID THAT KENYAN GOVT HAD MOVED ONE BATTALION OF TROOPS UP TO KENYAN-ETHIOPIAN BORDER TO PREVENT UNAUTHORIZED TRANSITS FROM SOMALIA TO ETHIOPIA, BUT MORE PARTICULARLY TO DISCOURAGE SOMALIS FROM ATTEMPTING TO CAPTURE MOYALE. LATTER BORDER WAS CAREFULLY SEALED SINCE, AS HE SAID, KENYA WAS NOT INTERESTED IN HAVING TO FEED LARGE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES, EITHER ETHIOPIAN OR SOMALI, FLEEING ACROSS BORDER.

5. COMMENT: FROM HIS COMMENTS, IT INCREASINGLY APPEARS THAT KENYA IS MORE INTERESTED IN SEEING SOMALIA DECISIVELY DEFEATED THAT, IT IS WORRIED ABOUT GROWING SOVIET PRESENCE AND INFLUENCE IN ETHIOPIA. EMBASSY IS NOT AS SANGUINE AS HE ABOUT SOVIET ABILITY TO RESTRAIN ETHIOPIANS FROM CARRYING WAR INTO SOMALIS' HOME GROUND. ETHIOPIAN RESENTMENT AGAINST SOMALIA IS

NOW SO STRONG THAT RATIONAL ARGUMENTS NOT LIKELY TO
PREVAIL WHEN OPPORTUNITY FOR REVENGE ARISES, AND AT
THAT POINT EVEN SOVIET THREAT OF ARMS CUTOFF WOULD
HAVE LITTLE EFFECT UPON ETHIOPIANS WITH VICTORY IN
SIGHT.

MATHERON

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